

Ser. No. 09/980,389

SCP061817

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1, and 4-17 are pending.

Responsive to the objection to the specification, applicant has amended the abstract to be in a single paragraph form, to delete the underlined text above the body of the abstract, and to delete the label "figure 1". Applicant submits that the objection is overcome in view of this amendment.

Setting aside the rejection of claims 1, 2, 9, 12, 13 and 17 under 35 USC 102 (b), applicant notes that the examiner has indicated claim 3 as being allowable if rewritten and independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim in any intervening claims. In that regard, applicant has amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of canceled claims 2 and 3. The remaining claims now depend from allowable claim 1.

In view of the above, applicant submits that this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6815, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

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